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NOTES ON THE PLAN ADOPTED BY THE ITALIAN  
GOVERNMENT TO COLONIZE TRIPOLI

From: Harold D. Finley American Consul.  
Naples, Italy Date of preparation, March 11, 1924.  
Date of Mailing, March 31, 1924.

CONFIDENTIAL

The leading Vice President of the Naples Chamber  
of Commerce has furnished the following information con-  
cerning the present policy of the Italian Government with  
regard to colonization in Tripoli:

The plan to be followed consists in increasing  
the number of troops quartered in Tripoli for colonizing  
rather than military purposes. In this, the plan re-  
sembles the ancient Roman methods of colonizing Gaul.  
During the soldier's period of enforced residence in the  
colony, effort is made to interest individual soldiers  
and officers in establishing themselves there. For example, farmers are encouraged to take up land. If

they

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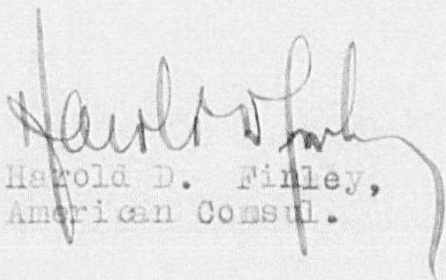
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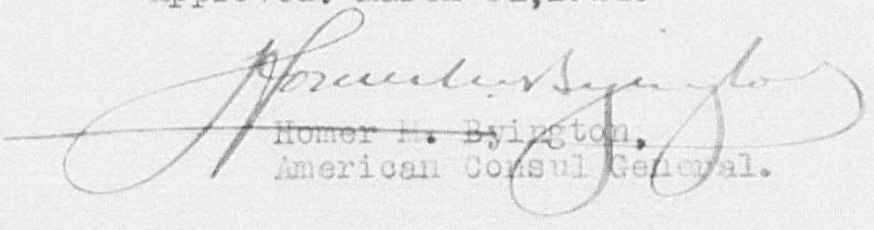
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they do so, their pay as soldiers goes on for one year in spite of the fact that they are not doing actual military service. At the end of this time, the individual has the option of rejoining the army if his term of service has not yet expired, or of securing a lease on the land for a thirty year period on easy terms. If the soldier happens to be a shoemaker, he can leave the army at any time during his service in Tripoli and set himself up in his trade. His army pay continues for one year beyond the date of his establishment.

That the plan has been put into operation is borne out by the fact that exports from Naples to Tripoli and Bengasi are increasing, due largely, according to the informer, to the shipments of military supplies going thither.

  
Harold D. Finley,  
American Consul.

Approved: March 31, 1924.

  
Homer M. Byington,  
American Consul General.

File No. 810.2  
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NO. 1237

Office of Economic Adviser

MAY 21 1926

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL,

Rome, Italy, April 27, 1926.

~~CONFIDENTIAL.~~

SUBJECT: Reported Westerly Extension of Italian Colonization in Libya.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to report that my French colleague informs me that Italians are endeavoring to extend the settled area of Libya in a westerly direction towards the French Protectorate of Tunis. This, he considers, cannot be regarded as a menace as colonization of the desert area between Tripoli and the eastern border of the Tunis Protectorate is not an easy undertaking. He informs me, however, that Italian views concerning Tunis are apt to become annoying and that the Italian attitude towards the Tunis area needs constant watching.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*Leon Dominian*

Leon Dominian,  
American Consul in Charge.

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Enclosures: Four Copies of Despatch.

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DIVISION OF  
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

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